

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pre-paid airline ticketing system comprising:

~~a processor supporting a pre-paid airline ticketing system; and~~

~~a storage device in communication with said processor and configured to store a record representing a pre-paid, fixed-price option purchased by a customer to be exercised by the customer to book a flight from among a plurality of flights offered by one of multiple participating air travel carriers, the record including:~~

(i) a plurality of geographic flight parameters and a plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, at least one of the geographic flight parameters being unspecified and at least one of the non-geographic flight parameters being participating airlines available for selection by the customer for booking a flight; and

(ii) an identifier associated with and uniquely identifying the record for the customer to use to exercise the pre-paid, fixed price option ~~to book one of the flights; and~~
said processor configured to:

verify an identifier submitted by a customer to exercise the pre-paid, fixed-price option;

retrieve the record including the identifier submitted by the customer;

generate signals used to present actual flights offered by the participating airlines available for selection by the customer based on the geographic and non-geographic flight parameters stored in the record; and

book a flight selected by the customer from among the presented actual flights by using the pre-paid, fixed-price option.

2. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the identifier comprises an alpha-numeric sequence.
3. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters ~~comprise~~ include at least two of the following: a date, a time, a flight number, and a seat number.
4. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters further comprise one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters.
5. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 4 wherein the one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters comprise a range of possible values from which the one or more unspecified non-geographic flight parameters may be selected.
6. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of geographic flight parameters comprise a departure location and a destination location.
7. (Previously Presented) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further comprising a dependence between two or more of the plurality of geographic flight parameters.
8. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a maximum distance between the destination location and the departure location.
9. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the departure location and the destination location must be selected.

10. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the departure location must be selected for a specified destination location.

11. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 7 wherein the dependence comprises a geographical region from which the destination location must be selected for a specified departure location.

12. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further comprising ~~a wallet sized card, the wallet sized card including a magnetic strip, the magnetic strip comprising an encoded representation of the unique identifier configured to store data on a machine-readable, tangible medium.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim [[1]] 12 further comprising ~~a wallet sized card, the wallet sized card including a bar code, the bar code comprising wherein the machine-readable, tangible medium stores~~ an encoded representation of the unique identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further comprising wherein said processor is further configured to generate a printed receipt, the printed receipt including a first part for presentation to an airline and a second part for a customer's records, the printed receipt including, in printed form, the unique identifier, the plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, and the plurality of geographic flight parameters.

15. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim 1 further comprising wherein said processor is further configured to issue an electronic receipt, the electronic receipt including, in electronic form, the unique identifier.

16. (Currently Amended) The pre-paid airline ticketing system of claim [[1]] 15 ~~further comprising wherein the electronic receipt is an email receipt, the email receipt including, in electronic form, the unique identifier.~~

17. (Withdrawn) A network server for selling pre-paid airline tickets, the server comprising:

a processor and a storage device, the storage device configured to store one or more ticket options, each ticket option comprising an identifier, the identifier uniquely identifying the ticket option, a price, a plurality of geographic flight parameters, and a plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, at least one of the plurality of geographic flight parameters being an unspecified geographic flight parameter;

a secure connection to one or more customers, wherein the processor is connected in a communicating relationship with one or more customers;

the processor configured to provide an interactive user interface to the one or more customers, the interface including a presentation of the one or more ticket options, the processor further configured to receive an order from one of the one or more customers for a particular one of the one or more ticket options; and the processor further configured to provide the identifier of the particular one of the one or more ticket options to the one the one or more customers when that customer orders a pre-paid airline ticket.

18. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 further comprising a secure connection to one or more airline servers, wherein the processor is connected in a communicating relationship with the one or more airline servers, the processor configured to retrieve new ticket options from the one or more airline servers and store the new ticket options in the storage device.

19. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 18 wherein the processor is configured to retrieve new ticket options from the one or more airline servers on a real-time basis.

20. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 further comprising a secure connection to one or more financial transaction servers, wherein the processor is connected in a communicating relationship with the one or more financial transaction servers, the processor configured to complete a financial transaction through one of the one or more financial transaction servers for one of the one or more customers when that customer orders a pre-paid airline ticket.

21. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 further comprising a secure connection to one or more remote ticket vendors, wherein the processor is connected in a communicating relationship with the one or more remote vendors, the processor configured to provide each of the remote vendors with one or more ticket options, whereby each of the remote vendors may resell one or more pre-paid airline tickets.

22. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 wherein the network server is a World Wide Web server.

23. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17, the secure connection to one or more customers further comprising a secure Internet connection.

24. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 wherein the processor is further configured to receive a unique identifier from a pre-paid ticket holder, present qualifying flight and seat information to the pre-paid ticket holder, receive a booking request from the pre-paid ticket holder, and provide a booking confirmation to the pre-paid ticket holder.

25. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 wherein the processor is further configured to obtain seat availability information from an airline server and to provide the seat availability information to a pre-paid ticket holder.

26. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17, the storage device comprising a mass storage device.

27. (Withdrawn) The network server of claim 17 wherein the processor is further configured to provide an electronic bulletin board for reselling a plurality of pre-paid airline tickets.

28. (Withdrawn) A system for providing pre-paid airline tickets comprising:
means for storing a plurality of ticket options, each ticket option comprising a ticket price, a plurality of geographic flight parameters, and a plurality of non-geographic flight parameters, at least one of the plurality of geographic flight parameters being an unspecified geographic flight parameter;
means for presenting the plurality of ticket options to a customer;
means for receiving a ticket selection from the customer;
means for receiving a payment from the customer, the payment being equal to the ticket price;
means for associating with the selected ticket option a unique identifier;
means for storing the unique identifier and the associated ticket option; and
means for providing a pre-paid airline ticket to the customer, the pre-paid airline ticket comprising a record of the unique identifier.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28 further comprising means for booking a flight using the pre-paid airline ticket.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 29 wherein the flight booking means further comprises a means for interactively booking a flight over the World Wide Web.

31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28 further comprising a means for periodically updating the ticket option storing means from a remote airline server.

32. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28 further comprising a means for securely communicating with a remote financial transaction server to perform a transfer of funds for the customer.

33. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28 further comprising a means for reselling a plurality of pre-paid airline tickets.

34-75. (Canceled)